(c) the decision taken by Government to meat their demands?

The Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation (Shri Hathi): (a) Yes, in respect of some demands.

(b) A copy of the agreement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See* No. LT-1295/67].

(c) The remaining demands are under consideration of Government and the parties have agreed to abide by Government's decision in regard to them.

Apprenticeship Training

7527. Shri A. K. Kisku:
Shri P. R. Thakur:

Will the Minister of **Labour and Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the participation in apprenticeship training is voluntary;

(b) whether the selection of apprentices is the responsibility of the sponsores the candidates or the sponsorers of the programme;

(c) whether preference is normally given to persons who have already had the experience in industry, who have some knowledge of the trade or who have a close relative in it;

(d) if so, whether this restricts the apprenticeship opportunities for the Scheduled Castes and scheduled tribes;

(e) whether Government propose to adopt suitable measures or to issue clear directives on the pattern of the relevant provisions in the U.S. Civil Rights Act of 1964 in this regard; and

(f) whether it is proposed to adopt a specific regulation to the effect that those in control of covered apprenticeship or other training programmes will be required to keep appropriate records, including a list of applicants and the order in which they applied, and to furnish a detailed description of the methods of selecting trainees or apprentices, as provided under the U.S. Civil Rights Act?

The Minister of Labour and Rehabilitation (Shri Hathi): (a) Apprenticeship training is a compulsory and statutory requirement in industries and trades specifically so notified under the Apprenticeship Act.

(b) to (d). Subject to requirement of the Act, employers are free to chose the apprentices. The apprenticeship opportunities to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are thus not restricted.

(e) and (f). For laying down the standards of education and physical fitness, norms of training and standards to be achieved and also for the purpose of prescribing rules for the implementation of the Apprentices Act, there is a central tripartite advisory body called the Central Apprenticeship Council, in which employers, workers, experts and Governments, both State and Central, are represented.

Every employer is required to maintain records of the progress of training of each apprentice undergoing apprenticeship training in his establishment in the forms which are prescribed under the Rules made under the Act. As, however, the selection of the apprentices is the responsibility of the employer, no rules can be prescribed under the Act, for this purpose.

Staffing of Administrative Machinery

7528. Shri A. K. Kisku:
Shri P. R. Thakur:

Will the Minister of **Home Affairs** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the official representatives of the Government of India on the Fifth Committee